



March 29,  
2005

To Whom It May Concern

As the City of Greensboro approaches its bicentennial year, we have identified human relations as a priority. We have set out to build on our rich history of racial issues and advance along a path that will increase trust across races and cultures in our community. The Mosaic Partnerships Program is the flagship of this effort.

Our City, like many others, is at a critical point in preparing for its future, as we adjust to rapidly changing demographics. There are now over 80 nationalities represented in Greensboro, and this number is increasing. Although we have a rich legacy in race relations, a recent survey indicated that we have low social trust. With this in mind, we adopted the Mosaic Partnerships Program to galvanize the community and begin to shift the way we interact, and with whom we interact. Without trust among the various races and ethnicities in our community, we will be left behind as our country continues to become increasingly global.

So far the results of the Mosaic Program have been exemplary. The level of enthusiasm among the participants is high, and, after only a few months, we have already begun to see positive outcomes. As a participant myself, I add to the positive reviews. Although my partner and I are quite busy, we have met more than the Program requests and have begun to develop that deeper level of friendship and trust that the Program promotes.

I am highly impressed that Idea Connections made efforts to connect and work with the other social programs in the City. This has really helped to ease the tension of other groups that considered the Mosaic Program a potential threat instead of an ally in our effort to advance.

Initially, my major concern about the Program was the cost. But what I began to realize is that cost must be considered in light of the deep and lasting impact on our community for years to come. Also, one must consider the cost of not bridging differences in the City. We are now gearing up to expand the Program for next year. This fills me with hope for the continued advancement and prosperity of Greensboro.

Sincerely,

Keith A. Holliday  
Mayor